

REMARKS

Claims 17-24, 27, 28 and 30-31 are pending in this Application. By this Reply, Applicants have canceled claims 17-24, 27 and 28 without prejudice to file such claims in a continuation application. Accordingly, claims 30 and 31 remain at issue following this Reply and have previously been allowed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-19, 22-24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bookwalter et al (USPN 4,424,724) in view of Kubicki et al. (USPN 5,171,927). Claims 19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bookwalter et al. and Kubicki et al. in view of Gauthier (USPN 3,965,890). Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bookwalter et al. in view of Kubicki et al. and Gauthier and further in view of Dobrovolny (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0177753). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 30 and 31 were allowed.

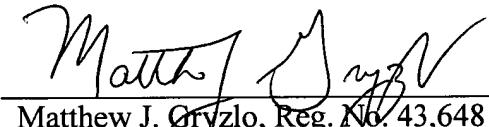
In view of the Amendments and Remarks herein, which are in compliance with the Examiner's indication that claims 30 and 31 are allowable, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request immediate notice of same.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 30 and 31 are allowable, and request early notification of same. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account 23-0280. Applicants further invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below to discuss any matters pertaining to the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

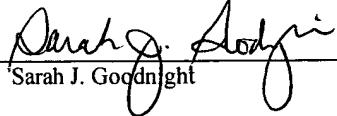
Dated: August 19, 2009

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service, with first class postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 19, 2009.


Sarah J. Goodnight

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